

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

OF THE LATE

ROBERT GRAHAM, M.D., F.R.S.E.,

PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE AND BOTANY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF
EDINBURGH, ETC. ETC.

BEING

THE ANNUAL ADDRESS DELIVERED BEFORE THE
HARVEIAN SOCIETY OF EDINBURGH,
ON 11TH APRIL 1846.

(SIXTY-FOURTH ANNIVERSARY.)

BY

CHARLES RANSFORD, M.D.,

PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE YEAR;

FELLOW OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS; LATELY ONE OF THE PHYSICIANS TO
THE ROYAL PUBLIC DISPENSARY AND VACCINE INSTITUTION; EXTRAORDINARY
MEMBER, AND FORMERLY PRESIDENT, OF THE ROYAL MEDICAL
SOCIETY, ETC. ETC.

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HARVEIAN ADDRESS

FOR

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GENTLEMEN,

You are all aware of the loss which we have sustained since our last Anniversary, by the death of our oldest member and former President, Dr ROBERT GRAHAM, Professor of Medicine and Botany in the University of Edinburgh. As a very inadequate tribute of respect for his memory, I propose, on this occasion, to bring before you a Biographical Sketch of our lamented friend.

He was born on the 7th of December 1786, at Stirling, where his father, Dr GRAHAM, at that period was a highly respectable and accomplished Physician, who, amongst other influential friends, numbered the late DUKE of MONTROSE, of whose

family he was a cadet. Although his practice was extensive, this gentleman found time to contribute occasionally to the Medical Periodicals of the day. Two of his communications have been printed in the Medical and Philosophical Commentaries,* the first, entitled, “An Account of the Successful Application of Deadly Nightshade in Hard and Ill-conditioned Tumours and Ulcers;” and another, “An Account of Violent Pains from a Particular Species of Worm under the Skin.” In the year 1792, on the death of his relative GEORGE MOIR, Esq. of Leckie, he succeeded to that estate, retired from practice, and took the name of MOIR.

He died at Leckie in 1819, at the age of eighty-eight, his strong mental faculties remaining to the last unimpaired. Besides four sons and three daughters, he left a widow, ANNE, daughter of CHARLES STEWART of Ardshiel, in Appin, who was a personal friend of the unfortunate PRINCE CHARLES, and led the Stewarts of Appin (their own chief being a minor) during the disturbances of 1745. It may be mentioned, in passing, that his steadfast adherence to the unhappy cause was

* Vols. I. and X.

followed by calamitous results to himself and family. To his Lady, the King's troops behaved with extreme barbarity; they turned her out of her house during most inclement weather in 1746, immediately after the birth of her daughter ANNE, who subsequently became the wife of Dr MOIR, and mother of the subject of this Memoir. In consequence of this expulsion, Mrs STEWART and her infant were obliged to take refuge in an out-house at Ardshiel, and her husband concealed himself in the hills. He was, nevertheless, present at the christening of his daughter, which ceremony was performed by the side of a well. His retreat was well known to the Highlanders; yet, although large rewards were offered for his head, to their honour be it recorded, he was never betrayed, but escaped with his family to France, where Dr GRAHAM's mother remained until her sixteenth year, when she returned to Scotland, suffering many hardships during her journey hither. Mrs MOIR died at Touch in Stirlingshire, in the seventy-sixth year of her age, regretted both by rich and poor, her character having been as exemplary as her person was beautiful.

ROBERT, their third son, was sent, when six

years old, to a preparatory school in Stirling, taught by Mr BELL, and afterwards to the grammar school, under the superintendence of Dr DOIG, and latterly of Dr CHRYSTAL his successor. After the completion of his education, he came, in 1803, to study Medicine in Edinburgh, where he was placed under the care of the late Mr ANDREW WOOD, Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, to whom he was bound apprentice on the 2d February 1804. During his boyhood and youth, he displayed considerable mental and bodily activity. He was a diligent student; and, by his amiable disposition and high moral worth, secured the friendship of Mr WOOD's family, with whom he resided.

Mr GRAHAM became a Member of the Royal Medical Society in November 1805, and read before it, according to the usual rotation, an Essay "On Scorbutus." He was subject, at this time, to violent fits of coughing, occasionally accompanied by sanguineous expectoration. From an apprehension of Phthisis, this indisposition sometimes depressed his usually buoyant spirits; but, happily, the calamity was averted, and he was enabled to present himself for examination before the Royal College of Surgeons, and to receive its licence on

the 2d of August 1808, graduating at our University on the following 12th of September. He chose for his inaugural dissertation, "*Disputatio de Frigoris Effectibus in Corpus Humanum.*" Dr GRAHAM now proceeded to London, and studied for twelve months at St Bartholomew's Hospital; he then returned to Scotland, and selected Glasgow for his field of practice, being much influenced in the choice by a desire to be near his parents, who were now advanced in life. All his brothers were at this time abroad. Filial duty was not unrewarded. He unconsciously selected a path that led him to a most unexpected elevation, which his parents lived to witness. He took up his residence in that city in 1810, and joined the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons, of which body he was afterwards President. Dr GRAHAM was appointed one of the Physicians to the Royal Infirmary in 1812. This office he held for many years, during which period he lectured on Clinical Medicine, and published a pamphlet entitled, "*Observations on Continued Fever,*" which at that time was epidemic in Glasgow. This is an entirely practical treatise, which gives an excellent account of the disease

as it existed in the Infirmary. The latter part of the work is devoted to the consideration of the Origin and Propagation, Prevention and Removal of Fever, under which he notices various local circumstances which tended to keep up the disease, and points out the means of correcting them. The Essay was favourably received by the profession: it bore the stamp of truth, and indicated its author to be one who dared not merely to think for himself, but likewise to act upon his honest convictions. He was a member of the Literary and Commercial Society, and at a subsequent period contributed to it several papers upon subjects connected with Vegetable Physiology.

At the time of Dr GRAHAM's settling in Glasgow, no separate Chair of Botany existed in the University. The Professor of Anatomy was, by his commission, likewise Professor of Botany, upon which science he occasionally gave lectures. But upon Dr JEFFREY expressing a wish to restrict himself to the duties of the Anatomical Chair, the Senatus Academicus appointed a lectureship, which Dr THOMAS BROWN (now of Langfyne) had ably filled since the year 1800. Finding that his increased private practice was incom-

patible with Botanical pursuits, Dr BROWN, in 1817, informed his friend GRAHAM that he intended to resign the office, and persuaded him to apply for it, offering, at the same time, his influence with the Senatus.

If it be true, that

“ There is a tide in the affairs of men,

Which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune,”

such a crisis in our friend's history had now arrived. The appointment, fraught with such advantageous results, was given to Dr GRAHAM, who ever after referred with gratitude to Dr BROWN's kindness towards him. He now zealously devoted the greater portion of his time and study to this new sphere of labour, but under a serious disadvantage. A small garden, adjoining the College, containing but very few plants, was all the accommodation afforded by the University, the deficiency being partially supplied from the neighbouring fields and nurseries, by persons employed to gather the specimens necessary for the illustration of his lectures. Another important occurrence must not pass unnoticed. On the 29th of December of this year, Dr GRAHAM was married at Drumpellier, to ELIZABETH BELSCHES BUCHA-

NAN, youngest daughter of DAVID BUCHANAN, Esq. of Mount Vernon and Drumpellier, who afterwards prefixed CARRICK to his name, on account of a considerable addition to his fortune left to him by Mr CARRICK, one of the partners of the Ship Bank in Glasgow. In no relation of life did Dr GRAHAM appear to greater advantage than as a husband and father; home was his delight, and his children the objects of his warmest solicitude, and the sources of his purest earthly pleasures. Six daughters and seven sons were the fruit of this union. The whole of the former, and four of the latter, with their bereaved mother, survive to mourn the premature removal of one whose apparently strong constitution had given promise of a long and useful life. In 1818, the Crown instituted a distinct Chair of Botany, and conferred it upon Dr GRAHAM, who, knowing how much the efficiency of his Professorial labours depended upon the condition of the Botanic Garden, exerted himself to supply this desideratum. He was fortunate enough to find some gentlemen* willing to assist him in establishing one by sub-

* At the head of this movement was the late much lamented THOMAS HOPKIRK, Esq., younger of Dalbeth.

scription ; and by their united efforts, aided by a liberal contribution of L.2000 from the College,* the necessary arrangements were speedily made ; and ground, purchased from Mr CAMPBELL of Blythswood, was converted into a Botanic Garden, under the direction of the Professor and his co-directors.† He had now attained a very favourable position : his strictly upright character secured him respect from all ; his intelligent, lively, and familiar conversation, combined with his prepossessing appearance and gentlemanly manners, rendered him exceedingly popular with a large circle of the hospitable inhabitants of the western

* In return for this handsome donation, the College acquired certain privileges for the Professor of Botany in the University, as well as for the other Professors and their families.

† That garden does not now exist. It was situated at the extremity of Sauchiehall Street, at the west end of the city, and distant about a mile from town buildings ; its dimensions were about seven and three-quarters imperial acres. In 1839, the city had extended so far to the west, that its removal became necessary. This was effected in 1841, to the present site, on the banks of the Kelvin, a mile farther from town, and consisting of nearly twenty-two imperial acres. It may not be out of place to notice, as a proof of the increased value of property, that the sale of the ground in 1840 realized L.12,000, while the sum paid for it in 1818 had been less than L.2000.

metropolis. His habits were active, simple, and unaffected. Though late in retiring, he was an early riser, and a rigid economist of time. He was fond of society; and those who visited him, both there, and afterwards, in our own city, cannot easily forget how agreeably the evenings at his house were spent.

Within little more than twelve months after Dr GRAHAM's establishment in the Glasgow College, the Professorship of Botany in the University of Edinburgh became vacant, through the death of Dr RUTHERFORD, who had held the appointment for thirty-three years. Although, from his age and infirmities, Dr RUTHERFORD had not latterly added much to her fame, under his predecessor, Dr JOHN HOPE,* Edinburgh had become distinguished for the cultivation of Botany as a branch of medical education. Vegetable Physiology was taught there more assiduonsly than in almost any other university in Europe; and the Linnean principles were ably enforced and illustrated.† In connection with the Chair, the University had,

* Father of the late accomplished Professor of Chemistry in the University of Edinburgh.

† HUGO ARNOT's History of Edinburgh, p. 418.

for nearly 130 years,* possessed a Botanic Garden (consisting of the flower-garden of the Palace of Holyrood, and the small inclosure immediately to the east of the North Bridge), which afforded ample means for the elucidation of the Professor's lectures. Its situation having, in the course of time, become unsuitable, Dr HOPE memorialised the Lords of the Treasury, who yielded to his solicitations, and exchanged it, in 1776, for a piece of ground, consisting of five English acres, lying on the west side of Leith Walk. A sum of money for its formation, with a small annual allowance for its maintenance, was given by the Government, to which the Magistrates and Town-Council added the yearly sum of L.25.

The distinguished reputation of the Edinburgh University, and the number of students which an-

* To Sir ANDREW BALFOUR and Sir ROBERT SIBBALD, Doctors of Medicine, Edinburgh is indebted for the design of establishing a Botanic Garden. "They obtained of John Brown, gardner of the North Yards in the Abby, ane inclosure of some 40 feet of measure every way, and also obtained of the Counsell of Edinburgh ane leese to Mr James Sutherland, for nynteen years, of the garden belonging to Trinity Hospitall, and adjacent to it."†

† For curious information upon this subject, see *Memoirs of Sir ANDREW BALFOUR, M.D.*, published by Dr WALKER, in his *Essays on Natural History and Rural Economy*. Edinburgh, 1808. Also, *Autobiography of Sir ROBERT SIBBALD, Knt., M.D.* Edinburgh, 1833.

nually flocked to her walls, induced Dr GRAHAM to become a candidate for a Chair possessing so many attractions. At first his success did not appear probable, because the Magistrates and Town-Council had offered the appointment to Mr ROBERT BROWN, then Librarian to Sir JOSEPH BANKS.* This distinguished Botanist declined its acceptance, having been otherwise provided for by his patron. Through the favourable interest of Lord MELVILLE, Dr GRAHAM received a Commission from the Crown, and was gazetted on the 31st December 1819, as Regius Professor of Botany, and Keeper of the King's Garden. He was unanimously elected by the Patrons to the Professorship of Medicine and Botany in our University on the 5th of January 1820. His first care upon arriving here, was to secure the formation of a new Botanic Garden, in an advantageous locality, as the existing one in Leith Walk was, from various causes, very unfavourable for the cultivation of plants. A piece of ground immediately to the north of the Duke's Walk, near Holyrood Palace, had been previously purchased by the Government, and operations, involving a consider-

* NOW Dr ROBERT BROWN, of the British Museum.

able outlay of money, had already commenced for its conversion into a garden. Its soil and aspect being extremely unfavourable, Dr GRAHAM (after strenuous and unremitting exertions) succeeded in having it exchanged for the present excellent site, consisting of fourteen and a half English acres ; and as he formerly had the principal share in the labour of laying out the first similar institution in Glasgow,* so did he again, with great expenditure of time, devote his energies to the same object here. All the trees, shrubs, and plants, were removed from the old garden without the loss of one of them. It may not be generally known, that amongst these was a venerable Yew, which grew during the years 1680-90, in the first Botanic Garden, a flourishing institution, cultivated with great skill and industry by the ingenious SUTHERLAND,—thence was removed to Leith Walk, from which it was again taken and planted in Inverleith Garden, where it still flourishes in

* Although absent from Glasgow, Dr GRAHAM, throughout the remainder of his life, continued to take a lively interest in the welfare of its garden, and he encouraged, in every possible manner, Mr M'NAB's efforts to promote its prosperity, by contributions of plants, &c.

green old age. He was always the first to acknowledge the merits of Mr WILLIAM M'NAB (the present worthy and intelligent Superintendent of the Garden), and the value of his services rendered on this, as well as on many subsequent occasions. By their united efforts a Botanic Garden has been formed, second to none of similar extent in Britain. But to accomplish this, the Professor was under the necessity of expending considerable sums of money from his own private resources, the Government grant being inadequate for its proper maintenance. During many years the outlay remained unpaid, and though it was ultimately discharged, and the annual grant somewhat augmented, it is still insufficient for so extensive an establishment, and Dr GRAHAM (rather than allow the institution to languish for want of the requisite funds), on different occasions, advanced large sums, which we fear have not yet been fully repaid.* Dr GRAHAM was appointed by the

* The Government annual allowance to the Edinburgh garden is just about the half of that given to the like institution in Dublin, although the latter is a more private one, and altogether independent of the garden upheld out of the funds of Trinity College.†

† The late Dr WHITLEY STOKES of Dublin, may be said to have been the originator of the Botanic Garden of the Dublin University; the plan of it he laid

Medical Faculty to lecture on Clinical Medicine, and was also chosen by the Managers to be one of the Physicians to the Royal Public Dispensary. It would, perhaps, have been desirable had he delegated these offices to another, and had bestowed his undivided attention upon the duties of the Botanical Chair (of themselves sufficiently onerous); but, aware of the connection existing between the different branches of medical science, he endeavoured to grapple with them all. His Clinical Lectures, although not remarkably striking,—(as they did not exhibit that variety and novelty of resource which characterize the lectures of modern eminent physicians),—were instructive, from the simplicity and clearness of his views, and morally useful, from the exhibition of that unbending integrity and fearless candour which prevented him from hesitating to admit such mistakes as must occur to the soundest physician. Whenever it lay in his power, his generous nature led him *always*, and in the *most public manner*, to give his clerks credit for any suggestion. His aim was not to dazzle, by brilliant specula-

down whilst a student in Edinburgh, during the year 1793. He took as his model the garden which then existed in the Scottish metropolis.—*Dublin University Magazine*, vol. xxvi., p. 204.

tions, but to convey solid practical instruction. He was a successful practitioner, particularly in fever and other acute diseases. Possessing considerable tact, he took a rapid and simple view of a case, and, as the result usually proved, a correct one; and his treatment, conducted on the plainest general principles, was bold and decided. In private practice his honour was proverbial;—sincere, and above artifice, no interested motives could allure him from the paths of rectitude. With the chimeras of the medical world he had not the most remote sympathy; but, on the contrary, deplored and indignantly condemned the conduct of those who stooped to practices utterly unworthy of men professing to be actuated by a love of science and a regard for truth.

Notwithstanding his numerous engagements, Dr GRAHAM's zeal for his favourite pursuit never abated. He determined to create amongst the students a taste for Botany as a science. His fine manly figure—his intelligent and expressive countenance—his frank, yet dignified deportment, produced at once a favourable impression, which was increased and strengthened by future acquaintance. He possessed that *prime* quality of

a teacher, an enthusiastic love of the science he taught, and the power of communicating some of that same fire to those who had any elements of ambition in them. "The morning walk to the Botanic Garden," writes a former pupil,* "the large light conservatory-looking lecture-room, surrounded by fine shrubs and beautiful flowering plants, the abundance of newly gathered flowers, with which the lectures were illustrated, and the lecturer himself, simple, unaffected, cordial, and joyous, with no dulness or tedium in him, but as fresh and healthy, and full of life, as the youths around him, remain as a permanent picture in the mind's eye, from which so many scenes have altogether faded."

The Professor took great pains in laying a solid foundation, by dwelling upon the structure and functions of the organs of plants and their classification, in which he adhered pretty closely to the *Linnean* principles. In his early lectures, he allotted but a very limited portion of the course to the consideration of the Natural Classification, and only illustrated those orders which

* DR JOSEPH BULLER, of Southampton.

contained the more important *medicinal* plants, at the same time describing their properties. Latterly, however, after giving a view of the Linnean arrangement, and treating of genera, he proceeded to speak of species in Natural Families at greater length. He also *divided* the hour of lecture, dedicating the first half to Physiological details, and the remainder to Practical Botany, illustrating his observations by specimens handed to the students. He found, that in this way their attention was better sustained. Their knowledge and progress he ascertained, 1st, By setting apart a small portion of the hour to oral examination; 2dly, By affixing numbers to particular plants in the Garden, and desiring the students to tell him on the following day what these were. On the Saturdays he invited them to accompany him on botanical excursions in the neighbourhood. These trips sometimes extended over fifteen miles; and, enjoyed alike by the teacher and the taught, they contributed in no small degree to impart a lively interest to their studies in the Lecture-Room and Garden.

To increase their ardour, he annually, and at his own expense, presented a gold medal for the

best Herbarium, and another for the best Essay on some botanical subject ; occasionally he added to these two of silver, so desirous was he of stimulating his pupils to exertion. Of his popularity as a teacher, the numbers which yearly attended his lectures are satisfactory proofs. In the summer of 1828, his class consisted of 280 pupils.

Dr GRAHAM was the first Professor who lectured upon Botany during the winter months, which laudable innovation was of great service to many students, of whom sixty entered to one of his winter courses. His example has been followed in the Glasgow University. In order to create a more general interest in this fascinating study, he likewise gave popular lectures at the Garden, having previously adopted this mode in the west ; and in both cities they were well attended.*

Dr RUTHERFORD had never drawn up descriptions of any new plants, although many flourished

* At the close of the course of popular lectures in Glasgow (which had been attended by about ninety of the most respectable inhabitants), a fund was raised by subscription, for the purpose of presenting the Professor with a memorial of their esteem and approbation.

in the Botanic Gardens, and thus Edinburgh lost the credit of introducing several novelties; but Dr GRAHAM, in the year 1826, resolved upon doing so. His friend Dr PATRICK NEILL was much struck with the tone in which he once remarked to him, "That he who thought it an easy matter to describe or institute a new genus, or even a species, shewed that he was really no Botanist, but probably a mere Nomenclaturist." Until his health failed, the Professor carefully described all the new plants which first flowered in Edinburgh, and published their descriptions in the *Edinburgh New Philosophical Journal*. It was of no consequence to him whether the new plants first shewed flower in the Botanic Garden, or in any of the public nurseries, or in a private collection, his zeal and candour led him equally to attend to all. He also sent to the same periodical, as well to CURTIS's *Botanical Magazine*, notices of plants observed in the more lengthened journeys which at this period he commenced, and continued to take annually in the months of August and September, through various parts of Scotland, England, and Ireland, accompanied by Mr M'NAB, part of his Class, and a few friends. The Floras

of various parts of the kingdom were by these means carefully examined, and several additions made to the Flora of Britain, amongst some of which may be mentioned,—*Astragalus alpinus*, *Lychnis alpina*, *Carex Vahlîi*, *aquatilis*, and *rupes-tris*, *Saxifraga cæspitosa*, and *Ononis reclinata*.* Of a robust and active frame, possessing an almost inexhaustible store of animal spirits, Dr GRAHAM was capable of enduring great fatigue and hardship. His average daily walking distance was about twenty miles; in particular cases, for the purpose of reaching some resting-place, it would amount to fifty miles. He often outstripped his companions, and then good-humouredly laughed at their laziness, or luxuriousness, if any of the party dared to hire a carriage. From his diary of a trip to the west of Ireland, I extract an anecdote, which will serve to shew with what good temper and readiness he accommodated himself to the inconveniences met with in his excursions. The language is his own: “We left Galway, and arrived at Oughterard. From a blunder, however,—for such things, notwithstanding the march

* London and Edinburgh Monthly Journal, vol. v. p. 724.

of intellect, do occasionally happen, *even in Ireland*,—a bed too few was provided, and I padded a deal form with a plaid belonging to one of the party, wrapped myself in a blanket belonging to another, and slept soundly in this Protestant-murdering country, without putting a bolt on either door or window; for this reason, amongst others, that neither door nor window had one.”*

* In order to obtain a desired specimen, he once, during this expedition, had recourse to a stratagem, which, for the benefit of future tourists, it may be useful to mention. The incident was related to me by an eye-witness. When travelling from Galway to Ballinasloe, on Bianconi's mail car, Dr GRAHAM noticed *Nepeta Cataria* at the side of the road. This being a plant which had not been gathered during the trip, he was anxious to get some of it. To have asked the driver of Her Majesty's mail to stop for such a purpose, would have been deemed Quixotic; he therefore *intentionally* dropped his hat, and immediately his companions, previously made aware of the trick, shouted loudly to Paddy, whose politeness induced him instantly to pull up. Dr GRAHAM's anxiety to get at the plant was so great, that he jumped from the car before it had fully stopped, and received a very severe abrasion of his arm. In spite of this, however, he and the rest of the party rushed to the spot where the *Nepeta* was growing, and to the no small surprise of their fellow-passengers, proceeded to pull large quantities of it,—the hat being, of course, a minor object of consideration, though it was not left behind. Having thus detained the mail for a few minutes, the party resumed their seats, highly pleased with their successful botanical adventure.

That he succeeded in interesting his students in the science, is clearly seen by the number of accomplished Botanists which yearly left our University, many of whom have since honourably distinguished themselves as Professors, Teachers, and Collectors. An additional evidence is supplied by the formation of the Botanical Society of Edinburgh. On the evening of the 8th of February 1836, twelve of his former pupils* met at No. 15 Dundas Street, by invitation of Dr BALFOUR (the present zealous and able Professor of Botany in our University). These gentlemen then agreed to institute a Society, to be exclusively devoted to the advancement of Botanical Science, by means of periodical meetings ; the formation of a Public Herbarium and Library, and the mutual interchange of specimens, amongst its Resident, Non-

* W. H. CAMPBELL, LL.D., Demerara ; WILLIAM BRAND, W.S. ; JAMES M'NAB, Superintendent of the Horticultural Gardens ; GILBERT M'NAB, M.D., Jamaica ; EDWARD FORBES, Professor of Botany, King's College, London ; GILES MUNBY ; N. TYACKE, M.D., Chichester ; R. C. ALEXANDER, M.D., Oxon. ; RICHARD PARNELL, M.D., Author of Work on British Grasses ; EDWARD CHARLTON, M.D., Newcastle ; GEORGE C. WALLICH, M.D., India ; Dr BALFOUR in the Chair.

Resident, and Foreign Members. Dr GRAHAM was waited upon, and the proposed objects stated to him. He at once warmly entered into the scheme, and granted the use of his class-room for the Society's Meetings.* He was chosen President at the first regular meeting, March 17th, when the number of original members amounted to twenty-one.† To this office he was twice re-elected. Besides contributing largely to its Herbarium, he read to the Society two elaborate and carefully drawn up papers, on the progress and state of Botany in Britain, which, with other communications of interest, have been printed in the

* The Meetings were afterwards held, during the summer months, in the class-room of the Garden.

† The additional nine Members were,—Professor GRAHAM ; Dr R. K. GREVILLE, Author of several standard Works on Botany ; Dr PATRICK NEILL, Sec., Wern. and Hort. Soc. ; Dr MARTIN BARRY, Author of Works on Embryology ; Dr WALKER ARNOTT, Professor of Botany in the University of Glasgow ; Mr DAVID FALCONAR of Carlowrie, since deceased ; Mr ROBERT MAUGHAN, since deceased ; Mr DAVID STEUART ; Mr WM. M'NAB, Superintendent of the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh.

The number of elected Members, as on May 14. 1846, was 456, amongst whom are to be found the names of most of the ablest Botanists of Europe.

Transactions and Reports.* His exertions in many and various ways for its prosperity only ceased with his life. Amongst other advantages following its establishment, was the union of its Herbarium with that of the University, which contained the collections of the late Drs HOPE, RUTHERFORD, ROXBURGH, and BUCHANAN HAMILTON. This arrangement was effected by the Senatus Academicus, in conjunction with the Patrons. An additional stimulus was given to the examination of the stations of plants in the vicinity of Edinburgh. “The zealous members,” to adopt the words of the President, “galloped and crept, in succession, over every acre within the range of our local Flora.” In 1835, Dr GRAHAM read before the Royal Society† a communication on the botanical origin of the Ceylon Gamboge, and shewed, from specimens and drugs sent from Ceylon to himself and the late Dr DUNCAN jun., that the plant furnishing the Ceylon Gamboge, is not the *Garcinia gambogia*, as LINNÆUS thought, nor the *Xanthochymus ovalifolius*, as conjectured

* Transactions and Reports of the Botanical Society.

† Proceedings of Royal Society, vol. i., p. 123.

by Dr WIGHT and Mr ARNOTT, nor *Stalagmitis cambogioides*, according to MURRAY and KÆNIG, but is a species described by LAMARCK and GAERTNER, under the name of *Garcinia* or *Mangostana morella*, although somewhat different from either of these genera in the structure of its stamens; and, therefore, ought probably to be considered a new genus, amongst others, furnishing a gambogioid juice. Farther investigations led him to modify his former opinion, and to believe that the Gamboge plant of Ceylon belongs to a nondescript genus characterised especially by its stamens, which have suggested the name of *Hebradendron gambogioides*, and that this plant is indigenous in Ceylon.* I refer to the printed accounts themselves for fuller information on this subject; they evidence Dr GRAHAM's desire to arrive at truth in his researches, which extended to the Botanical sources and nomenclature of all the vegetable products in the Materia Medica, a list of which is prefixed to the first English edition of the Edinburgh Pharmacopœia, published in 1839.

* HOOKER's Companion to the Botanical Magazine, vol. ii., p. 193.

His efforts for the prosperity of our University were unceasing and well directed. I am informed by one of his distinguished colleagues, that “he was one of the Professors who, from first to last, took a zealous and unabated interest in all the affairs of the *Senatus Academicus*, general as well as medical, and, in common with a few others, made large sacrifices of time and labour in transacting its business. In discharging the duties he thus undertook, he was always distinguished by his usual urbanity, candour, and perseverance; and there was no one with whom it was more agreeable to act, *whether as a supporter or as an opponent*. He set out as a Professor with strong, decided, but rational views, with regard to Medical Reform. He was a firm and active advocate of all the Reforms in University Medical Education which have been effected here between 1822 and 1836;* and he was never turned aside from carrying his conscientious sentiments into effect, by the probabili-

* For additional proofs of his anxiety to sustain the reputation, and to increase the efficiency, of the Edinburgh School of Medicine, I refer to the well considered observations made by him before the Royal Commissioners appointed to visit the Scottish Universities in 1826. See their printed Reports.

ty, or even certainty, of *a personal pecuniary loss.*" In December 1840, Dr GRAHAM was unanimously chosen President of the Royal College of Physicians, and was as cordially re-elected the following year. He executed the duties of this honourable post with his wonted ability and impartiality. Knowing their beneficial effects, he was partial to the frequent meeting together of individuals engaged in scientific investigations, and united with most of those Associations formed for the purpose of assembling to discuss their respective pursuits in a friendly spirit.* Of the Medico-Chirurgical Society he had been an original member, and was elected President of it in December 1842. Although neither his pursuits nor inclination prompted him often to *read* communications, still, he was in the habit of introducing topics of interest, and discussing them with ability. After the proper business of the evening, he would en-

* He was a Member of the Wernerian, Linnean, Horticultural, and Highland and Agricultural Societies, as well as of many Foreign Associations; in most of those in our city, he was repeatedly elected to the office of President, and other distinguished situations.

gage in cheerful and unrestrained conversation upon miscellaneous subjects. On these occasions, I have frequently been impressed with the earnestness with which he advocated his opinions, most of which he held with great tenacity ; not, however, without giving intelligent reasons for doing so, and if he were not always successful in making converts of others, none could question his own perfect sincerity in maintaining them.

In the autumn of 1843 the Professor took the last Botanical excursion which his health permitted him to make. From Liverpool, he proceeded through North Wales to Birmingham, thence he rode to Weymouth, and spent a few days in that neighbourhood. Leaving Weymouth one morning in August, accompanied by a young friend, they arrived late in the evening at Wareham, in Dorsetshire, with the intention of sleeping there. In this they were disappointed. "The people of Wareham did not will that it should be so," writes the Doctor to a kindred spirit ; "and, with an expression of unequivocal scorn, we were refused beds in four inns. We were pedestrians, warm, dirty, weary, with botanical boxes on our backs, and our neckcloths in our pockets, and such guests,

they shewed us very clearly, they did not desire. We had no wish to walk back to Weymouth or Dorchester. I—— was excessively angry at the intolerable insolence of these innkeepers; but it was so supremely absurd, that I could do nothing but laugh. The result was, that we set off, and, walking as quick as we could, reached Winfrith soon after ten o'clock, P.M., not having tasted one morsel of food for thirteen hours. Certainly," concludes Dr Graham, "no individuals are less likely than the good folks of Wareham to entertain angels unawares." Laughable as this ignorant and heartless behaviour may appear, its consequences were serious. In the course of this fatiguing walk and of the following day, our friend complained of pain in the back, and he felt that he had overtaxed his strength, but he soon rallied, and appeared long afterwards to be in good health; still, to that day's exertions he always referred the commencement of his lingering and at length fatal illness. After remaining a few days with his family in Jersey, he returned by Southampton, and was there met by his warmly attached friend Dr BELL SALTER, and with him made a hurried visit to the Isle of Wight. Of this trip,

Dr SALTER thus writes to me :—" Dr GRAHAM had only two hours to spare in Ryde. We landed at Cowes and took a car to Ryde ; whenever an ascent prevented our proceeding quickly in the carriage, we walked. By this means I was able to point out several plants which my friend had never seen growing before. He even preserved a considerable number in this manner, hastily plucking them, walking or running up a hill, and then 'laying them down' (his own term), as we were driven quickly along ; and when we left Ryde, he proceeded down our gay pier with his parcel under his arm with the greatest enthusiasm. To give an idea of his energy at this time ; he was all night on deck coming from Jersey to Southampton ; his jaunt hither took up the day ; by night he travelled to London,—passed the day there in transacting business, and started at night for Edinburgh, I believe, by land."

Although Dr GRAHAM conducted his usual classes during the following session, his strength and activity were considerably impaired by the frequent recurrence of indisposition, which prevented him from resuming his public duties at November 1844. He complained of pains in his

back and chest, and of dyspnœa ; he thought himself the subject of aneurism of the aorta, an opinion which at first was entertained by more than one of his physicians. His case was one of considerable ambiguity, which rendered a precise diagnosis difficult, if not impracticable. The pulse was regular, but the aorta was ascertained to pulsate farther to the left side than usual. Spasms (supposed to be of the diaphragm) supervened. Though his appetite was unimpaired and his digestion good, he lost flesh, and for many months before death his countenance assumed an anxious expression. From these symptoms increasing in severity, it was impossible to doubt the existence of organic disease, which was latterly conjectured to be a tumour pressing upon the thoracic duct. He had not quitted his house for many weeks ; and as the summer session approached, he applied to the Magistrates and Town-Council, who, with expressions of sympathy for his state of health, allowed him to procure an assistant to undertake the duties of his Chair. To the astonishment of his friends, he presented himself at the lecture-room on the morning of the 5th of May, his emaciated and care-worn appear-

ance exhibiting a melancholy contrast to the erect and vigorous figure of former days. In a few words, he introduced Dr JOSEPH HOOKER* as his substitute, remained during the delivery of the lecture, and afterwards walked through every one of the hot-houses and part of the garden. He observed, as he quitted the spot, "that it would be his last visit." After this he was scarcely able to sit up, yet, with his friend Dr HOOKER, he devoted part of each day (often whilst suffering intensely) in arranging plants, and talking over the subject of lecture. But he was not able to bring to maturity a British Flora, in the preparation of which he had been long engaged, and of which fragments are (with other papers) in the possession of the Botanical Society.

An affecting illustration of Dr GRAHAM's uprightness and generosity, and of his resignation in contemplating his approaching end, has been given me in the following note from my friend Dr DOUGLAS MACLAGAN.

"My brother PHILIP, now in the Army Medical Department in Canada, had sent home a con-

* Son of Sir WILLIAM HOOKER.

siderable collection of the plants of that country ; and, according to his instructions, Dr GRAHAM had each parcel successively sent to him, that he might select specimens for his Herbarium. I had sent him a portion of this collection, from which he had selected specimens and returned the duplicates to me. I thought no more of the matter, until one day I received back the specimens which he had picked out, with a note in the following terms :—‘ My dear MACLAGAN, I return you the plants which I had selected from your brother’s Canadian collection. I feel too ill now to entertain a hope that they ever can be incorporated with my Herbarium ; and as my collection will, some time or other, be brought to the hammer, I will not retain them, as I cannot think of making merchandize of PHILIP’S specimens.—Yours truly, ROBERT GRAHAM.’ ”

Our friend, when in health, was strict and conscientious in the discharge of his religious duties, as well in his family as in his attendance upon public worship, to which he often, on the Sabbath, invited his clerks to accompany him after their necessary duties at the Infirmary were completed. Whilst firmly attached to the Episcopal Church,

her ritual and form of government, he as strongly condemned the assumed infallibility of those of her members who virtually excommunicate all beyond her pale. His lengthened and painful illness he bore with great fortitude and patience ; to his attentive friend Bishop TERROT, he, with unaffected humility, expressed deep regret for having devoted so small a portion of his life to that which is “ the chief end of man ;” but faith overcame despondency, and he was able to build his hopes of salvation, not vaguely, but firmly, on the mercies of God in Christ, and by the exercise of the same trust, to leave his numerous family to Him with whom the widow and the fatherless are objects of especial regard.

On the 24th of July, in accordance with his own most earnest request, he was removed to Coldoch, in Perthshire, the residence of his youngest brother and sisters. He bore the journey better than his friends had expected ; for, previously, the slightest movement gave him exquisite pain. During the remaining days, his sufferings were comparatively inconsiderable, but the exhaustion daily increased, and at length he expired, in the most calm and peaceful manner, on the morning

of the 7th of August, in the fifty-ninth year of his age.

An examination of the body was made on the following day under the direction of Dr JOHNSTONE, of Stirling, to whose kindness I am indebted for the following account :—“ The emaciation was extreme. We found the heart, lungs, and great vessels of the chest, in a healthy state. In the posterior mediastinum we discovered an encephaloid tumour resting on the second, third, and part of the fourth dorsal vertebræ. This tumour was situated behind the œsophagus, and was about four inches in length, and an inch and a half in depth. It must have compressed the vessels, nerves, and thoracic duct. The abdominal organs were all in a healthy state.”

He was interred on the 13th, in the private burying-ground of Leckie, belonging to his eldest brother, CHARLES A. MOIR, Esq.* According to his own reiterated injunctions, none but his nearest relatives attended, with the exception of his

* This gentleman was apparently in perfect health when attending on this mournful occasion ; but seven days afterwards he was suddenly seized with an illness which terminated fatally in the course of an hour and a half.

old and faithful friend Mr M'NAB, and Bishop TERROT, who read the impressive burial service.

In closing this outline of our estimable friend's career, we would simply point to it as affording a bright example of untiring industry and conscientious discharge of duty. He was unexpectedly called to lecture upon Botany, whilst possessing a knowledge of the subject not exceeding that of the generality of graduates in Medicine, and without time to prepare a regular digest of the science from a systematic course of study ; but, quick in perception, diligent in investigation, prompt and energetic in action, he laboured successfully to supply the deficiencies of his early Botanical education, and never relaxed his efforts to keep pace with the rapidly advancing science. If he erred, it was in attempting too much. Were it necessary, I could bring forward the most gratifying proofs of attachment from former pupils, so many of whom entered the University strangers to him, but were, by his kind-heartedness and amicable familiarity, converted into warm personal

friends.* In them and in their concerns he took a lively and considerate interest; and when sickness visited them, they received from him not only the unwearied attention of a skilful physician, but even the tender sympathy of an affectionate parent.

It is quite possible to meet with individuals of equal talent and greater learning; but I ask you, where will you find the man who so speedily and so permanently won your esteem, and commanded your respect?

* A genus of Chilian plants has been called *Grahamia* by GILLIES, in honour of the deceased Professor; and several species of plants have also been named in a similar manner, among which we would particularly mention a new Alpine species of *Carex* (allied to *C. Saxatilis*) found in Clova, the scene of many of Dr GRAHAM's excursions, and designated *Carex Grahami* by BOOTT.—*Annals and Magazine of Natural History*, vol. xvi., p. 285.



Lith. by W. & A. N. Johnson, T. Chis.

OLD SURGEONS HALL, OF 1697.

as seen from the North

